



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter.

Tuesday, August 7, 2007

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox and Office Assistant Elga Concepcion.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Scott and Councilor Streeter

Members Absent: Councilor Sheets

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Ashley St. Pierre.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Richard Cady, 36 Island View Avenue, Mystic, stated that he had come before the Town Council last year to request assistance with a large shipping container which has been placed near his front yard by his neighbor. Mr. Cady had requested that all the Councilors come to his property to see this "urban blight". He communicated that only two Councilors have looked at his property and he has not been offered assistance by any government officials. Mr. Cady noted that he is disappointed that he was not offered the opportunity to interview for the vacancy on the Zoning Commission. He reviewed the poor conditions of the crosswalks in Downtown Mystic in great detail. Mr. Cady expressed his dissatisfaction with the lack of police enforcement of State laws regarding jaywalking. He was pleased at the attempt at signage removal in Downtown Mystic. Mr. Cady would like the Town Charter to allow citizens to vote on the budget and suggested other changes as well.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Responding to Councilor Bartinik, Mr. Cady clarified the type of signs which were removed in Downtown Mystic. Councilor Bartinik noted that illegal signage is also a concern at Groton Shopper's Mart. He suggested that sign violators be issued a few warnings before receiving fines. Councilor Bartinik stated that these signs make the Town look "dumpy".

Responding to Councilor Bond, the Town Manager confirmed that jaywalkers in Mystic are not fined. Mr. Oefinger stated that the crosswalks in Mystic are in poor shape and he has addressed this issue with the Department of Transportation (DOT) at a recent meeting. Responding to the Mayor, the Town Manager will follow-up with the DOT and re-issue a report on sign enforcement in the Town.

Responding to Mr. Cady's comments, Mayor Watson confirmed that although he is not one of the two Councilors who visited his property, he will make an effort to do so in the near future.

Councilors Bond and Streeter confirmed that they had seen the shipping container in Mr. Cady's yard.

Responding to Councilor Bond, the Town Manager will provide the Council with an update from Manager of Inspection Services Kevin Quinn addressing Mr. Cady's concerns.

Responding to Councilor Bartinik, the Town Manager stated that the Council is not allowed to pass an ordinance which would impose fines for violations of zoning regulations pertaining to signs.

Responding to the Town Manager's comments, Councilor Bartinik added that the Council could not institute a fine for sign violations, but that a court of law may be able to do so.

Mayor Watson and Councilor O'Beirne suggested that Mr. Cady attend a Charter Revision Commission meeting so that he may voice his suggestions.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2007-0182 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of July 17, 2007 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2007-0171 Resolution Approving Town Representatives in Outside Organizations

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0170 2007 U.S. Department of Justice Grant

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0175 Aquarion Easement

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0177 Millstone Emergency Notification Siren Replacement Project - Additional Site

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0178 TVCCA Supportive Housing Grant Program

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

c. Special Trust Fund Contributions

2007-0180 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Marlene Terry Ziegler - \$100.00 - Library Discretionary

Pfizer United Way Campaign - \$69.54 - Library Discretionary

J.D. McClatchy - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe

Ceseli & Peter Milstein - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe

Daniel Potter - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe

William & Leslie Taylor - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe

C. J. Lewis - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe

Betsey Fox - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe

Hiroko Masamune - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe

Simon and Alison Holt - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe

Andrea Leiser - \$10.00 - Arts Cafe
Mary-Lou Brockett-Devine - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe
Sharon Sanders - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe
Mr. and Mrs. William Leavy - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe
Autumn Beaver and Maxine Richardson - \$1.00 - Arts Cafe
Robert Hempstead - \$25.00 - Maritime Academy
C. P. and C. S. Stocker - \$25.00 - Maritime Academy
Alvaro and Crystal Garcia - \$50.00 - Maritime Academy
Gerald and Joan Griffin - \$50.00 - Maritime Academy
Mary and Stanley Juber - \$50.00 - Maritime Academy
Robert and Lynn Wallace - \$25.00 - Maritime Academy
Kennth and Sally Price - \$25.00 - Maritime Academy
Edward and Brenda Merrow - \$25.00 - Maritime Academy
David and Rosita Giles - \$50.00 - Maritime Academy
Christopher Drake - \$25.00 - Maritime Academy
Robert and Melanie Emery - \$25.00 - Maritime Academy

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Several Councilors received emails regarding zoning regulations.

Councilor Streeter received an email concerning school bus routes. He attended the public hearing of the Charter Revision Commission.

Councilor Scott attended the Phase II School Design Committee meeting on July 26.

Councilor Bond attended the Flanders Road Extension Committee meeting on August 6.

Councilor Bartinik received an email from a parent requesting a shorter bus route from the Northeast section of Town to Noank. Responding to Councilor Bartinik, the Town Manager will look into this matter.

Councilor Kolnaski attended the Ledge Light Health District Issues Committee meeting. She indicated that she had numerous conversations regarding the Animal Shelter and Senior Center referenda.

Councilor O'Beirne attended the public hearing of the Charter Revision Commission on July 30. He attended the public hearing regarding mixed use zoning on August 1.

Mayor Watson attended the same public hearings as did Councilor O'Beirne. The Mayor noted new referrals involving Groton Heights Elementary School, Thomas Road, and the Town Manager's evaluation.

The Mayor suggested having a joint meeting with the Board of Education at which time bus schedules may be addressed.

There was detailed discussion among Councilors and the Town Manager regarding an article in The Day which quoted a Board of Education official as saying that bids for furniture had only

recently been solicited, but this is in fact not the case.

b. Representative Town Meeting

Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox stated that the RTM will be meeting on August 8 at which time there will be deliberations on the Senior Center and Animal Shelter ordinances.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk reminded viewers that Citizenship Day is scheduled for September 17.

2007-0187 Setting Form of the Question for Senior Center Ordinance

SETTING FORM OF THE QUESTION FOR SENIOR CENTER ORDINANCE

Upon the request of the Town Clerk, this item was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

2007-0188 Setting Form of the Question on Senior Center Aqua Therapy Facility Ordinance

SETTING FORM OF THE QUESTION FOR SENIOR CENTER AQUA THERAPY FACILITY ORDINANCE

Upon the request of the Town Clerk, this item was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

2007-0189 Setting Form of the Question for Animal Shelter Ordinance

SETTING FORM OF THE QUESTION FOR ANIMAL SHELTER ORDINANCE

Upon the request of the Town Clerk, this item was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

2007-0190 Explanatory Texts for Senior Center and Animal Shelter Referenda

EXPLANATORY TEXTS FOR SENIOR CENTER AND ANIMAL SHELTER REFERENDA

Upon the request of the Town Clerk, this item was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

d. Town Manager

Mr. Oefinger reminded viewers that there will be a community volunteer event at the Tercentennial Playground on August 18. He stated that the Town's Surplus Sale is scheduled for September 15. The Town Manager reviewed the meeting dates of the Citizens' Tax and School Design Committees.

2007-0191 Reuse of Groton Heights School

REUSE OF GROTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Upon the request of the Town Manager, a referral was made concerning the re-use of Groton Heights Elementary School which was referred to the Town Council Economic Development Committee. He stated that this property has potential and noted the possible creation of a task force.

2007-0192 Thomas Road Project - Right-of-Way Activities Agreement

THOMAS ROAD PROJECT - RIGHT-OF-WAY ACTIVITIES AGREEMENT

Upon the request of the Town Manager, a referral was made to authorize proceeding with right-of-way activities concerning the Thomas Road pedestrian improvement project which was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting; no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond

No meeting; no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting; no report.

d. Environment & Recreation - Chairman Sheets

No meeting; no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting; no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Scott

No meeting; no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting; no report.

h. Public Works - Chairman Bartinik

No meeting; no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

There was a Special Committee of the Whole meeting on July 24 and the items on tonight's agenda are a result of that meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Watson stated that he will be contacting the Board of Education and the City Council to arrange joint meetings in the near future.

X. NEW BUSINESS**2007-0171 Resolution Approving Town Representatives in Outside Organizations****RESOLUTION APPROVING TOWN REPRESENTATIVES IN OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS**

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton makes contributions to outside cultural and service agencies, and

WHEREAS, Section 8.10 of the Town Charter requires that each organization have at least one board member who has been nominated by the Town Council, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following representatives are approved for Fiscal Year 2007-08:

SCADD - Dorothy Eames, 83 Pine Island Road, Groton
Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut - Mary Turgeon, 178 Cedar Road, Mystic
Big Brothers/Big Sisters - Jane Moriarty, 77 Cottage Street, Groton
Sound Community Services (First Step) - Rosemary Robertson, 7 Carol Court, Groton
ARC of Southeastern Connecticut - Enrico DeMatto, 401 Sandy Hollow Road, Mystic
Connecticut Legal Services - Timothy D. Bates, Esq., 65 Front Street, Noank
TVCCA - Gayle Jones, 32 St. Joseph Court, Groton
United Community Services - Paul Mathieu, 34 Middlefield, Groton Long Point
Boys and Girls Club - Lynn Kelly, 60 Seneca Drive, Noank
M.A.S.H. - Marjorie D. Fondulas, 160 Mitchell Street, Groton
Eastern Connecticut Symphony - Julie Maisch, 42 Circle Avenue, Groton
New London Drop-In Service Center - Jon Gaudio, 393 Fishtown Road, Mystic
Noank Mystic Community Band - Susan Weiss, 13 Center Street, Groton
Mystic and Noank Library - A. Neil Brown, 79 Edgecomb Street, Mystic
Bill Memorial Library - Charlotte Barnum, 20 Chestnut Hill Square, Groton
Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Connecticut - Kathleen Crook, 804 Shennecossett Road, Groton
Groton Ambulance Association - James Streeter, 64 Pleasant Street, Groton
Mystic River Ambulance Association - Richard Green, 146 Breezy Knoll, Mystic

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Scott, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0170

2007 U.S. Department of Justice Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton has made good use in past years of the U.S. Justice Assistance Grants program, and

WHEREAS, grants under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance program can be used to purchase equipment and technology in support of basic law enforcement work, and

WHEREAS, digital in-car camera systems have proven useful across the country both in capturing evidence and in recording the crucially important actions of law officers, suspects, and other persons, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may apply for a Justice Assistance Grant of \$11,481 for digital cameras to be installed in Town police vehicles.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0175

Aquarion Easement

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN EASEMENT IN FAVOR OF THE AQUARION WATER COMPANY

WHEREAS, the Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut provides water generally to the eastern portion of Groton, including all of Mystic, and

WHEREAS, a utility easement is needed for the water company to provide service and a new water main to the Northeast Academy School that is currently under construction, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may grant a utility easement, and any required ancillary documents, in favor of Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut and may pay, from any available funds, necessary charges for the inspection, flushing and engineering work for the Town's portion of the new water main.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0177

Millstone Emergency Notification Siren Replacement Project - Additional Site

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN EASEMENT FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AN EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SIREN

WHEREAS, improvement of the coverage of sirens and relocation of existing sites may require a series of easements by the Town in favor of the electric company, Dominion Nuclear, Connecticut, Inc., and

WHEREAS, additional notification sirens connected to the Millstone electric generating plant would provide better coverage and protection in the Fort Hill Homes area, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may grant easements on a parcel of Town of Groton property, on the south side of Industrial Drive east of the intersection with Depot Road.

A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0178 TVCCA Supportive Housing Grant Program**RESOLUTION APPROVING TVCCA/HUD SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM GRANT**

WHEREAS, homelessness is being addressed on several fronts by numerous programs but remains an ongoing problem for Groton and neighboring communities, and

WHEREAS, homeless persons with disabilities and homeless families in which at least one member is disabled require extensive counseling, support and case management services, and

WHEREAS, the Supportive Housing Program, operated by TVCCA as the grantee of record with the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, provides funding to enable agencies and municipalities to provide counseling, support and case management services via participation in the Housing Collaborative Network,
therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, to enter into an agreement with Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. to accept grant funding in the amount of \$9000 to conduct a Supportive Housing Program in Groton for the period of February 1, 2007 through January 31, 2008 and to utilize said funding to supplant a portion of the salaries and related fringe benefits of selected Groton Human Services staff, who shall provide counseling, support and case management services to the specified Groton client population via participation in the Housing Collaborative Network.

A motion was made by Councilor Bartinik, Jr., seconded by Councilor Bond, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05p.m.

*The motion carried unanimously.
Attest:*

Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk

*Elga Concepcion
Office Assistant*